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009/012

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REMARKS

Applicants cancel claims 13-14 and 18. Claims 5, 15-17, and 19 have previously been canceled. Claims 1-4 and 6-12 remain pending in the application. Applicants amend claim 1 to incorporate features that correspond to those of canceled claims 13-14. No new matter has been added.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,038,445 to Alperovich et al. in view of "Route Optimization in Mobile IP" by Perkins et al.; and claims 1-14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alperovich et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,480,715 to Pentikäinen, and further in view of Perkins et al. Applicants cancel claim 18 and incorporate features that correspond to those of claims 13-14 to claim 1. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the pending claims.

The Examiner, in rejecting claims 13-14, cited and relied upon Alperovich et al.—in particular, col. 8, lines 10-19 thereof—as alleged suggestion of the claimed conflict avoiding means. The cited portion of Alperovich et al. merely suggests, however, that "another set of subscriber data, including local CFB forward-to-number, are again retrieved for new service and provided to the new MSC when the mobile station roams into a different service area." The Examiner cited and relied upon Pentikäinen, and Perkins et al. to address the other features of the claimed invention.

Thus, even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to combine Alperovich et al., Pentikäinen, and Perkins et al., such a combination would have, at most, suggested forwarding incoming calls directed to a busy mobile station to a local forward-to-number, as described in the cited portion of Alperovich et al. Such a combination would, therefore, still have failed to disclose or suggest

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the claimed conflict avoiding means for avoiding a conflict between service profile updating means activated by an event signal detected in a home server and a person who is attempting to modify a service profile stored in a service control database, wherein the conflict avoiding means deactivates the event signal in case of conflict, and after the modification of the service profile is finished, redistributes the service profile and reactivates the event signal.

In other words, Alperovich et al., Pentikäinen, and Perkins et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, still would have failed to disclose or suggest,

“[a] network system which controls communication between a user terminal and a peer terminal thereof over a network including a mobile domain, comprising:

(a) a home agent, coupled to the peer terminal, which maintains the location of the user terminal and tunnels packets for delivery to the user terminal;

(b) a foreign agent which dtunnels and delivers the packets to the user terminal that is visiting a foreign network;

(c) a service control database which maintains a customizable service profile defining what class of service to provide to the user terminal;

(d) a home server located in a first administrative domain to which the user terminal belongs, comprising:

service profile setting means for retrieving the service profile from said service control database when the user terminal initiates a communication session, and distributing and setting the retrieved service profile to said home agent and foreign agent as an initial service profile, the service profile variably specifying services that the user terminal requires depending on control conditions, and

service profile updating means for generating an event signal when one of the control conditions described in the retrieved service profile is met, obtaining a new service profile from said service control database in response to the event signal, and distributing the new service profile so as to replace the initial service profile being set in said home agent and foreign agent; and

(e) a foreign server located in a second administrative domain, which forwards the initial service profile and new service profile from said home server to said foreign agent, wherein said home agent performs route optimization when a packet from the

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peer terminal is intercepted and tunneled to the user terminal, keeps a record about the peer terminal that has been subjected to the route optimization, and refers to the record to identify the peer terminal when a service profile change request is received from said home server; and

(f) conflict avoiding means for avoiding a conflict between said service profile updating means activated by the event signal detected in said home server and a person who is attempting to modify the service profile stored in said service control database, wherein said conflict avoiding means deactivates the event signal in case of conflict, and after the modification of the service profile is finished, redistributes the service profile and reactivates the event signal, as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added)

Advantageously, the claimed invention provides for coordinating access to a service control database, allowing its records to be updated in parallel with the activities of other functional entities, including event detection in a home server. Thus, the claimed invention permits a user to edit a service profile without concern for contention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit the claim 1, together with claims 2-4 and 6-12 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Alperovich et al., Pentikäinen, and Perkins et al., separately and in combination, for at least the foregoing reasons.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

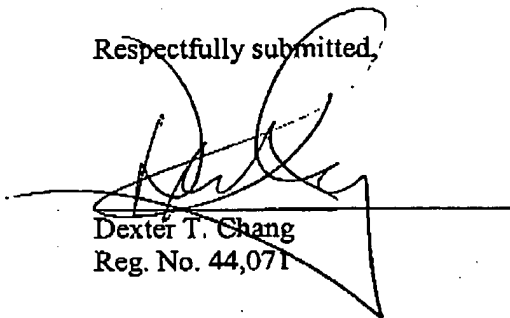
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Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dexter T. Chang', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

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